



JOURNEYING TOGETHER
A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

MAY 22, 2024

CALENDAR

Sunday, May 26: No Sunday School
Tuesday, May 28: Commission Chairs Zoom meeting, 6:30 pm
Wednesday, May 29: Craig's Church Office hours, 10-4
Friday/Saturday, Jun 7/8: Summer Fest 2024 @ Mara Christian Church of America
Monday, Jun 10: *BRO @ Greenfield Panera, 2173 N State St, Greenfield
Wednesday, Jun 12: Craig's Church Office hours, 10-4
Monday, Jun 17: *BRO @ Downtown Starbucks, 430 N Mass Ave
Sunday, Jun 23: Community Summer Picnic @ Shalom
Monday, Jun 24: *BRO @ Fishers Panera, 8510 E 96 St, Unit A, Fishers
Monday, Jul 15: *BRO @Northwest Panera, 6050 W 86 St.
Monday, Jul 22: *BRO @Greenwood Panera, 789 US Hwy 31N, Greenwood
Tuesday, Aug 6: SMC hosts The National Night Out with Arlington Woods N'hood Assoc, 6-9 pm
Saturday, Oct 12: Retreat @ Jameson Camp
*BRO = Brian's Roving Office, 9a – 3p

ADMINISTRATION

Mike Wigginton (chair), Andrew Martin, Dan Rosenberger
Pastoral Representative: Craig Oury

COMMUNITY LIFE: RELATIONSHIPS AT SHALOM

Linda Showalter (Chair), Bethany Martin, Beverly Smith
Pastoral Representative: Craig Oury

let's celebrate!

Wednesday, May 22: Herb & Joyce Troyer, 1976

Saturday, May 25: Bek Linsenmeyer

Monday, May 27: Alexandra Bither, also known as Lexie

DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

Carol Bixler (chair), Wilma Bailey, Carol Bither

Pastoral Representative: Brian Bither

If you would like to watch the video from Sunday's Dismantling Racism session, follow this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BTVuFZuEQWs>

There is more information at Native Hope

<https://www.nativehope.org/missing-and-murdered-indigenous-women-mmiw> ~ Martha

Our Elementary summer Sunday School schedule is almost ready. We still need:

- **July 7** – teacher needed to give a Lesson from our Digital Peace Curriculum
- July 21 – stay tuned for the contributions you can make for our Stone Soup
- Aug 4 – everyone can participate in collecting school kit supplies prior to this date

This schedule is still subject to change.

June 2	Lesson	Herb
June 9	Craft, Music, Games	Laura
June 16	Lesson	Laura
June 23	Movie	Brittany
June 30	Lesson	Brian

July 7	Lesson	
July 14	Craft, Music, Games	Carol Bixler
July 21	Stone Soup Lesson	Becky and Laura, w/Frank's kettle
July 28	Movie	Brian

Aug 4	Back to School Day	Laura / Carol Bixler
Aug 11	Lesson	Brian
Aug 18	Craft, Music, Games	Brittany
Aug 25	Movie	Laura

Adult Sunday School Classes

May 26: No Sunday School

June 2: *Stories in Genesis* led by Wilma Bailey, upstairs: Leah, Rachel, Bilhah and Zilpah
Genesis 29:15-30:24

June 9: *Stories in Genesis* led by Wilma Bailey, upstairs: The End of Genesis, Genesis 46: 29-50
Salt and Light Lesson #2, John 17:1 - 16

June 16: Dismantling Racism Work

June 23: Sermon discussion

Salt and Light Lesson #3, John 17:17 - 26

June 30: *Stories in Genesis*, led by Wilma Bailey

Salt and Light Lesson #5, John 11:17 - 44

July 7: Sermon discussion

Salt and Light Lesson #8, Matthew 15:21 - 28

July 14: Sermon discussion by
Salt and Light Lesson #12, Acts 11:1 - 18
July 21: Dismantling Racism Work

OUTREACH: RELATIONSHIPS BEYOND SHALOM

Zenebe Abebe (chair), Chuck Dunn, Becky Wigginton
Pastoral Representative: Brian Bither

The May newsletter from Hoosiers Concerned about Gun Violence can be found at this link, or attached.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CYlhOb4AnQR1bYOU0XaPzuB-OVcqz_JR/edit

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

CoraLyn Turentine (chair), Chuck Dunn (vice-chair)
VAT Representative: Nizeet Deiter; Pastoral Representative: Craig Oury

WORSHIP: OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Brittany Bither (chair), Justin Hochstetler, Jeanne Smucker
Pastoral Representative: Brian Bither

Last Sunday (5/19), Brian continued the series in Genesis by looking at the covenant that God made with Abraham in Genesis 15 as a way of bringing healing to dysfunctional families.

This Sunday (5/26), Brian will engage the story of Hagar in Genesis 21 and consider when breaking from unhealthy family systems may be necessary and healthy.

Next Sunday (6/2), Craig will deliver the sermon.

This week's prayer list:

- Church: This week, we are praying for **Fellowship of Hope**, which is a Mennonite church in Elkhart, Indiana, and is a member of Indiana Michigan Mennonite Conference. They ask for discernment as they consider their church's future in light of sustainability challenges, noting that they sense the Spirit's presence in their worship and congregational life.
- Organization: We are also praying for **Meserete Kristos Seminary**, which is a Mennonite seminary in Ethiopia that exists to equip men and women for the holistic transformation of the church and society. (Contact: Zenebe Abebe)

VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM (VAT)

Frank Kandel (Chair), Nizeet Deiter (Vice-Ch) Mark Stocksdaile, Charity Bauman, Grace Rhine
Pastoral Representatives: Brian Bither, Craig Oury

"But Not So with You"

When I started seminary to become a pastor in November of 2005, the first Bible verses that they taught us were from Luke 22, verses 24-26: ²⁴ A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. ²⁵ But he said to them, 'The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. ²⁶ **But not so with you**; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. (NRSV)

It is easy for those of us in positions of leadership and power to "lord it over." It is easy for those in majority positions to lord it over those in the minority.

In attending Jes Stoltzfus Buller's (MCC's Peace Education Coordinator) recent webinar on "Creating Healthy Congregational Culture," she taught that rather than following the current cultural way of polarization and division, in the church we need a culture that affirms dialogue amidst diversity of opinion. She called it a "generative dialogue" where we are co-creating with people with whom we differ.

After three Congregational Sessions with conversations on the **Shalom Mennonite Church Statement of Welcome IN PROCESS**, it is apparent that while we have a diversity of opinion, we want to stay in dialogue. Thanks for showing up!

Next question up is "What does the Bible have to say about Homosexuality?" Even though you may have your mind made upon this issue, please join the conversation as we **together** seek God's will for Shalom (details to be forthcoming).

Please be reminded of the following statement from Shalom's Founding Covenant and listen to Brian's recent sermon on it in preparation.

We commit ourselves to be a biblical people,
together to read and hear the Scriptures
as God's words to us for our life and faith.

<https://www.shalommennonite.com/our-covenant>

Brian's November 12, 2023 sermon entitled "God's Words to Us",
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ph1h3DwQb58&t=1s&ab_channel=ShalomMennonite
~ Frank Kandel, Chair of VAT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

To view graphics and a more colorful version of Journeying Together, open the attached pdf file.



Pastor Craig is on vacation until May 27, and Pastor Brian will be on vacation May 29-June 6.

MENNONITE ACTION EVENT: Sarah Augustine will be the presenter for the upcoming Mennonite Action virtual gathering on **Thursday, May 23, 8:00 pm ET**. The theme is "Land, Palestine, and Indigenous Solidarity." Sarah Augustine is a Tewa (Pueblo) descendant, Mennonite, co-founder and executive director of the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery, and author of the book we discussed in Sunday School last fall (*The Land is Not Empty*).

Here is the link to register:

https://www.mennoniteaction.org/call?link_id=0&can_id=208d2dbcb8b82729e5e6af608e422860&source=email-next-thursday-mass-call-on-land-palestine-and-indigenous-solidarity&email_referrer=email_2321852&email_subject=next-thursday-mass-call-on-land-palestine-and-indigenous-solidarity

Once you register you will receive a zoom link. If you have any questions, please contact Sabrina. For more info about Mennonite Action: <https://www.mennoniteaction.org/about>



More on May 23rd's Mennonite Action Event:

Dear Brad,

My name is Amy Yoder McGloughlin. I am the pastor at Frazer Mennonite Church in Malvern, PA, and a member of the Mennonite Action steering committee.

I'm thrilled to invite you to Mennonite Action's mass meeting this **Thursday, May 23 at 8 p.m. ET / 5 p.m. PT**. I will be moderating a conversation with **Sarah Augustine**, co-founder and Executive Director of the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery, **Samiha Hureini**, co-founder of the Youth of Sumud movement, and activist **Ali Awad**. [Sign up here](#).

Over the last several years, I've been reflecting on my own transactional relationship with the land on which I reside. I buy it, so it belongs to me, and it is for me to treat as I please—right? But Palestinian folks and Indigenous people here on Turtle Island have a different relationship to land.

On my last trip to Palestine, I started asking Palestinian friends how they would describe the land on which they live. I heard answers like, "The land is a member of my family" and "The land is my personality." Indigenous botanist Robin Wall Kimmerer writes in *Braiding Sweetgrass* that "You can love the land and the land can love you back." These are deeply personal relationships, and I am learning so much from Palestinians and local Indigenous folks about how I too can love the land and enjoy a relationship with her as if she is a member of my family.

In the conversation with Sami, Sarah, and Ali, we'll explore their understanding of land, how we can learn from their wisdom, and what it means to be in solidarity with both of these communities. During the call, we will also hear an update about Mennonite Action's next events and actions. I look forward to being with you in community. If you have not yet registered, [please do so here](#).

In peace, Pastor Amy Yoder McGloughlin

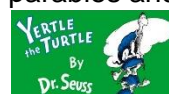
Summer Fest - Indiana Michigan Mennonite Conference is hosting its annual gathering in Indianapolis this year on June 7-8 at the Mara Christian Church, which is located at 415 W Smith Valley Rd, Greenwood, IN. In previous years, this event was known as "Annual Sessions," but this year, it has been renamed "Summer Fest" in order to emphasize that conference-wide worship and fellowship are just as important as the business meetings that take place. Everyone is invited to participate in the worship services for free, which are scheduled for 7pm on Friday (June 7), 11:30am on Saturday (June 8), and 4:30pm on Saturday. If you would like to participate in the entire weekend, including the workshops, meal, and "Fun Fest" activity, you can register at <https://www.im.mennonite.net/events/summerfest/>, where you will find more information. For those of us who haven't spent much time in Elkhart or Goshen, this is a great opportunity to get to know our larger Mennonite community.

INFORMATION NO ONE NEEDS:

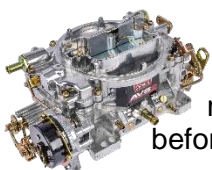
May 22 is the 65th day of spring. Only 30 days until summer! Help the time pass by playing Solitaire, since it's *National Solitaire Day*. Microsoft Windows launched online solitaire in 1990, but it wasn't solely created as a fun game. It was created to teach people how to use the mouse attached to computers!



May 23rd is *World Turtle Day*. Turtles/tortoises are common in parables and stories because they are associated with wisdom and perseverance.



(Yertle the Turtle by Dr. Seuss shares some pretty good lessons!)



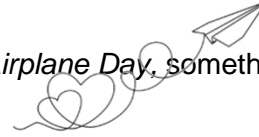
May 24 is *Carb Day*, being in Indianapolis and all. This day boasts the biggest automobile race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in which the final practice session takes place before the race itself. Although no carburetors have been used by qualified cars since 1963, the

name has stuck. If you're outside a lot, remember it's also *Don't Fry Day*, an initiative of the National Council on Skin Cancer Prevention. Get the sunscreen out!

May 25 is *National Brown Bag It Day*, the idea being to save money that we would otherwise spend on buying lunch, as well as (theoretically) eating healthier. Can Italian Beef be brown-bagged? Because It is also *National Italian Beef Day*.



May 26 is the annual *Indianapolis 500* race. It's also *National Paper Airplane Day*, something maybe a bit more attainable for most of us!



May 27 is *Memorial Day*. The day actually began as "Decoration Day," following the Civil War when mourners placed flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers. There are a lot of articles and views on how Pacifists do / should / might celebrate the day.



May 28 is *World Hunger Day*. This initiative, created by a non-profit organization called The Hunger Project, seeks to end world hunger. Ironically, it's also International Burger Day, burgers being one of the most popular foods in the world.



May 29 is *National Paper Clip Day*! The paperclip, in various forms, shapes and sizes, has been around for a little under 2 centuries, although who knows what the Egyptians invented to keep their papyri together. Several memorials have been created to honor it.

A classroom in Whitwell, Tennessee, was learning about the Holocaust. A student asked the question, "What is 6 million? I've never seen 6 million." The class decided to collect 6 million of *something* to help visualize the magnitude of Jewish deaths during the war, and in the end they decided upon paper clips. They were small and cheap enough to collect. They also discovered that many Norwegian students wore paper clips on their lapels as an act of quiet protest during the war. It became an international focus, with paperclips coming from all over the world. One of the earliest mailed-in paper clips came from a 94-year-old Holocaust survivor living in Washington, D.C. Other celebrities joined in, and by the end of the year, the students had gathered about 100,000 clips. Some clips arrived with personal letters: "Today, I am sending 71 paper clips to commemorate the 71 Jews who were deported from Bueckeburg." The class stopped counting when they hit 30 million.

There's more to the story – look up *Paperclip Project*.



Need something, have something to sell or give away?

Do you or someone you know want a used and free shop vac? If so text or call Herb Troyer at 317-407-6340

ROUTINE INFORMATION

"SHARING OUR LIVES" weekly power point. We invite photo submissions of events / hobbies / interests in your lives. Send pictures to Linda Showalter at lindashowalter52@gmail.com by Saturday morning. It will run before and after the service.

BULLETIN INFORMATION:

- Send announcements to Linda Showalter at lindashowalter52@gmail.com by Friday, 10 am.

- **Bulletins** are now attached with the Zoom link for those who are worshipping on Zoom. A link will continue to be sent out each week. If you have a prayer request or announcement you would like to share, ***type your request live into the chat*** feature on zoom and someone on the tech team will read it to the congregation at church.

JOURNEYING TOGETHER is compiled by Linda Showalter each week. Send information to office@shalommennonite.com by 5 pm on Wednesday.

SAM BIXLER manages our church directory, email address list, and telephone numbers. You can email changes or additions to the office at office@shalommennonite.com or bixlersc@gmail.com.

CRAIG OURY is managing our Zoom calendar, church calendar, and uploads minutes on the church website. If you need to schedule a meeting using the church zoom account or have minutes to upload, you can email the office at office@shalommennonite.com or craig@shalommennonite.com.

BUILDING USEAGE: If you want to use the building for a meeting or event, please check the online calendar first to be sure it's open, then email Craig at office@shalommennonite.com so he can add your item to the calendar. It's helpful to include the contact person and which parts of the building you expect to use.

YOUTUBE CHANNEL: In addition to our podcast, Shalom has a Youtube Channel. This is an easy way to share the good news with church members past and present, visitors and newcomers, and even outsiders. Check it out at youtube.com/@shalommennonite55.

VIDEO RECORDINGS (MP4) of our Zoom worship services are available online. A link to the worship service recordings is on the Member's page of our website.

Journeying Together is a weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church:

6100 E 32nd St, 46226; (317) 549-0577 shalommennonite.com

Pastors: Brian Bither, (317) 332-7320; Craig Oury, (301) 302-3181

Vision & Accountability Team: Nizeet Agular, Charity Bauman, Frank Kandel, Grace Rhine,
Mark Stocksdales, Brian Bither, Craig Oury